AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replace the sheet of drawings containing Figures 1 and 2 with the accompanying replacement sheet, containing the same figures.

In the replacement sheet, Figure 1 has been amended to reposition and relabel the weighted distribution blocks 201 and 209, to illustrate their relationship to one another.

REMARKS

Examiner Grant is thanked for the courteous interview conducted with Applicant's undersigned representative, to discuss the relationship of the claimed subject matter to the figures. Pursuant thereto, a replacement sheet of drawings containing a revised version of Figure 1 is being submitted herewith, to clarify the relationship of the weighted distribution block 201 to the weighted distribution block 209.

In essence, both of these blocks represent components of the correction value memory 119, illustrated in Figure 31. This memory stores correction values for the processing of pixel data in a half toning process. Referring to the general process illustrated in Figure 31, the half-toning operation is performed on a pixel-by-pixel basis. The value of the pixel currently being processed is input at unit 101, and compared at unit 103 to a threshold input from unit 111. The result of this comparison produces a binary output value, i.e. "0" or "1", at unit 105. This output value is also inverted at unit 113, and fed to a subtracting unit 115. The subtracting unit compares the inverted output value to the threshold generated by unit 111. The difference between these two values is multiplied by a coefficient in unit 117, and stored in the memory 119. The values that are stored in the memory 119 provide correction values that are used to adjust the threshold, in units 109 and 111, for succeeding pixels to be processed. Thus, the correction value that is calculated as an output for the current pixel forms an input to the unit 109 for one or more successive pixels.

Referring to Figure 6, the current pixel is designated by the label "X". When the corrected value is calculated for this current pixel, it is distributed among a

number of successive pixels, according to the weighting pattern illustrated in Figure 6. The term "weighted distribution" employed in the application refers to this distribution of the correction values among one or more succeeding pixels.

Referring to Figure 1, the weighted distribution block 201 refers to that portion of the correction value memory 119 that provides input for the current pixel "X" being processed. This input value is the result of processing one or more previous pixels. The weighted distribution block 209 refers to that portion of the memory 119 that receives the correction value that is calculated for the current pixel, and distributed according to a weighting pattern such as that illustrated in Figure 6. This output value then forms an input value for a succeeding pixel to be processed. Thus, the weighted distribution block 201 refers to the address in the memory 119 for the current pixel, designated by "X" in Figure 6. The weighted distribution block 209 refers to one or more addresses in the memory 119 for succeeding pixels. In the example of Figure 6, these addresses correspond to the locations with the numerical weight values.

In the revised version of Figure 1 being submitted herewith, the blocks 201 and 209 have been placed in juxtaposition to one another, to illustrate that they form components of a common element, labeled "weighted distribution." These blocks have also been relabeled to illustrate that the value stored in block 201 pertains to the current pixel being processed, which provides an input to the subtractor 205. Block 209 has been relabeled to illustrate that its stores the output value of the distribution unit, which is applied to one or more succeeding pixels.

In the supplement to the Advisory Action dated February 3, 2006, the Examiner questioned how the thresholding unit 103 can be "based upon" the value

of a distributing unit. In the previous response, the Applicant pointed out that, in the embodiment of Figure 1, the distributing unit includes the elements 109, 113, 115, 117, 203 and 207. The Examiner noted that, since the circuit 207 produces an output, he did not see how the operation of the thresholding unit 103 could be based upon such an output.

It is believed that the foregoing explanation illustrates the basis for the claimed subject matter. The distributing unit operates in an iterative manner, on a pixel-by-pixel basis. Consequently, the output value that is generated for a given pixel, and stored in the correction value memory 119, becomes the input value on the next iteration, for a succeeding pixel. In this manner, the operation of the thresholding unit 103 is based upon the value distributed by the distributing unit, namely the value from block 201 that forms an input to component 205, and then 109 and 103.

Based upon the interview with the Examiner, it is believed that the revised figure, coupled with the foregoing explanation, overcomes the rejection of claims 1-11 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: August 18, 2006 By: _____

James A. LaBarre
Registration No. 28632

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620